

## HOUSE BILL NO. 309

INTRODUCED BY R. BROWN, BALYEAT, D. BROWN, BRUEGGEMAN, DEVLIN, FUCHS, KASTEN,  
LASZLOFFY, LEHMAN, MOOD, A. OLSON, RIPLEY, SINRUD, STAPLETON, STEINBEISSER,  
F. THOMAS, YOUNKIN, FISHER, MCNUTT

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING A POPULATION CRITERION FOR THE  
REDISTRICTING OF LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS; PROHIBITING THE SECRETARY OF STATE FROM  
ACCEPTING A PLAN NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH CERTAIN CRITERIA; AMENDING SECTION 5-1-111,  
MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION.** **Section 1. Redistricting criteria.** (1) In the drawing of legislative districts, the  
districting and apportionment commission shall comply with the following criteria:

(a) the districts must be compact and contiguous; and

(b) the districts must be as equal as practicable.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "as equal as practicable" means within a plus or minus 1% relative  
deviation from the ideal population of a district as calculated from information provided by the federal decennial  
census.

**Section 2.** Section 5-1-111, MCA, is amended to read:

**"5-1-111. Final plan -- dissolution of commission.** (1) Within 90 days after the official final decennial  
census figures are available, the commission shall file its final plan for congressional districts with the secretary  
of state and it shall become law.

(2) Within 30 days after receiving the legislative redistricting plan and the legislature's  
recommendations, the commission shall file its final legislative redistricting plan with the secretary of state ~~and  
it shall become law.~~ The secretary of state may not accept any plan that does not comply with the criteria in  
[section 1]. Upon acceptance of a plan by the secretary of state, the plan is considered filed and becomes law.

(3) Upon the acceptance and filing of both plans, the commission ~~shall be~~ is dissolved."

